

Science Focus

Animals, including humans

Year 5

Spring 1

What? (Key Knowledge)

The human reproductive system

What is fertilisation?

The male and female sex cells fuse together.

What is puberty?

Usually, puberty starts between ages 8 and 13 in girls and ages 9 and 15 in boys. At that stage, their pituitary gland (a pea-shaped gland located at the bottom of your brain) releases special hormones that change and mature the body ready for reproduction.

Becoming old

As you get older, your skin wrinkles because it becomes thinner and less elastic. It gets drier too as it makes less oil and sweat. Your bones become more visible as you store less fat beneath your skin. Inside the body your bones and muscle become weaker. Your memory gets worse, and your immune system cannot fight disease as easily.

Statutory requirements

Describe the changes as humans develop from birth to old age.

What? (Key vocab)

Spelling

Definition

Gestation

The process or time when prenatal development takes place before birth.

Fertilisation

The process of the male and female sex cells fusing together.

Reproduce

To produce young.

Prenatal

The cells develop and grow into a foetus inside the mother's uterus. After around 9 months, the baby is born.

Newborn

A human infant that is less than 28 days old.

Infant

Child under 1 year of age.

Toddler

Child aged 12-36 months.

Child

Human aged 3-11 years.

Adolescent

Human aged 12-18 years old.

Elderly person

The final stage of life – often defined as over 60/65 years.

Hormones

Hormones are your body's chemical messengers.

Puberty

The period during which adolescents reach sexual maturity and become capable of reproduction.

Pictures and Diagrams

Stages of Growth and Development



Possible experiences

- Invite guests in to share their experiences e.g. parent with a newborn child, an elderly person.
- Measure children from different year groups in the school – from Nursery to Year 6. What can they do? What milestones have they passed.
- For homework, talk to your parent and make a list of your personal milestones – when did you say your first words, when did you walk?